

Application Serial No. 9/504,964
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2003

Patent
Attorney Docket No. CU-2130

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment Claim 4 has been added. No new matter has been added. No amendment to Claims 1-3 is considered necessary for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,067 (Matsuzono) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,106 (Aboaf). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Matsuzono in view of Aboaf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,227,940 (Isomura). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted.

As to Claim 1, the Office Action indicates that Matsuzono's underlayer 2 is analogous to the Applicants' claimed base member, Matsuzono's insulating layer 7 is analogous to the Applicants' claimed single non-magnetic layer, Matsuzono's 5b+3+5a+6+9 is analogous to the Applicants' claimed thin-film magnetic head.

However, Matsuzono's auxiliary magnetic pole piece 9 exists outside of the insulating layer 7. Therefore, unlike the Applicants' presently claimed invention as recited in Claim 1 (in which the claimed thin-film magnetic head is "accommodated in a single non-magnetic layer"), the Matsuzono's 5b+3+5a+6+9 is not accommodated in a single non-magnetic layer (such as the insulating layer 7).

Therefore, even for the part except the auxiliary member, Matsuzono's device structure is

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different from the presently claimed invention. Thus, even if Matsuzono's device is overcoated by a non-magnetic material, the Matsuzono's device is different from the presently claimed invention.

Further, a simple overcoating does not form the claimed auxiliary member that forms the claimed slider surface.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention of Claim 1 and the dependent claims thereof are patentable over the cited references.

Please add the new Claim 4. The support for Claim 4 is found in the Specification page 5, lines 23-25. No new matter has been added. Claim 4 further differentiates the presently claimed invention from the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and

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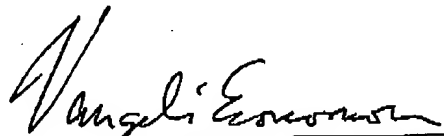
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earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

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